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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
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Draft report

Chapter II

Recommendations and decisions

E. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status

1. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/75.

2. The representatives of Canada, Burkina Faso, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation and the United States made statements under the item. The observer for EURISY also made a statement under the item.

3. The Committee took note of the information provided by States on their national practices regarding spin-offs of space technology that had resulted in the introduction of strategies for the management of regional economic development, as well as useful innovations in numerous scientific and practical areas of civil society, such as medicine, biology, chemistry, nanotechnology, astronomy, agriculture, geology, cartography, air, land, marine and commercial space transportation, protection of intellectual property rights and commercial licensing, land-use planning for urban and rural development, robotics, firefighting, the development of data-processing hardware and software, mining, the protection of nature, renewable energy, and the production and transportation of energy.

4. The Committee noted that spin-offs of space technologies were particularly important and contributed greatly to developing countries' efforts in providing timely health care through increased access to tele-epidemiology and telemedicine communication services, and in the administration of cartography and geologic surveys that had resulted in greater protection of land rights. The Committee also

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noted that space-derived benefits had supported infrastructure development and contributed to the peaceful resolution of property-related disputes.

5. The Committee agreed that spin-offs of space technology constituted a powerful engine for technological innovation and growth in both the industrial and service sectors and that they could be beneficially applied to achieve social and economic objectives and the development of national communications infrastructure, and could also be applied in projects aimed at achieving sustainable development.

6. The Committee noted that Governments had developed national policies directed specifically to implementing space-derived technologies in efforts to link national regions and improve efficiencies in the infrastructure, transportation and industrial development sectors.

7. The Committee agreed that spin-offs of space technology should be further promoted because they had fostered development of innovative technologies in other sectors, thus advancing economies and contributing to the improvement of the quality of life.

8. The Committee noted that Governments had successfully involved the civil and private sectors and academia in various projects regarding the assessment of end-user requirements and the practical commercial and industrial implementation of spin-offs of space technology.

9. The NASA publication *Spinoff 2013* was made available to the Committee.

I. Future role of the Committee

10. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled "Future role of the Committee", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/75.

11. The representatives of Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Japan, Mexico, Romania, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

12. The Committee noted that many issues related to its future role had already been addressed under other agenda items and would therefore be reflected in other parts of the present report.

13. The Committee agreed that it constituted, together with its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee, a unique common platform for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space at the global level, and therefore interaction between the three bodies on the cross-cutting issues before them should be enhanced, as appropriate.

14. The view was expressed that the Committee and its Subcommittees should strive for a closer dialogue with the main regional policymaking mechanisms for space cooperation and coordination and should continue to assess their role and their work, in view of the continuously changing environment surrounding the peaceful uses of outer space and the increasing number of countries and private

sector actors. In that regard, it was important that the Committee examine forms of cooperation to advance space utilization, with special attention to the collaboration of spacefaring and non-spacefaring nations to bridge the development gap, and that it assess how knowledge and expertise could be made available globally at the request from emerging space nations.

15. The view was expressed that the Committee should encourage and support new cross-sectoral collaborative approaches aimed at yielding results, including new cooperative activities that would combine the utilization of global navigation satellite systems and Earth-observation applications.

16. The view was expressed that with the rapid development of space science and technology and the increasing trend towards the commercialization and privatization of space activities, the Committee was faced with increasing challenges and therefore needed to adapt to such new developments with a view to reinforcing its prime function of being the driving force in space law development and in regulating space activities.

17. The view was expressed that the Committee should continue to maintain and strengthen its leading role in space law-making, the coordination of international cooperation in space activities and capacity-building in space science and technology applications.

18. The view was expressed that the Committee should foster synergy in the work of various space-related organizations and mechanisms by establishing better communication and interaction and by promoting international cooperation, technology transfer, information-sharing, education and outreach activities in a more proactive and pragmatic manner to ensure sustainable space cooperation and create more opportunities for developing countries to benefit from advances in space science and technology.

19. The view was expressed that there was an objective and logical need to gain better understanding of the importance of ascertaining the legal grounds for and modalities of coercive measures in outer space by way of exercising, in a hypothetical case, the right of self-defence in outer space. There was a need for serious consideration in the Committee and the Legal Subcommittee both for the sake of better understanding and for joint political action. If a mechanism for resorting to self-defence in outer space were not considered and interpreted, and if at least basic instruments on pivotal aspects of self-defence were not formed, the regulation of the safety of space operations being devised by the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would remain critically vulnerable.

20. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee should not be engaged in a detailed and substantial consideration of the placement and use of weapons in outer space.

21. The view was expressed that the proposal on the establishment under the auspices of the United Nations of a compact and effective unified centre for information on monitoring objects and events in the near-Earth environment corresponded directly to tasks identified in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189).

22. The Committee agreed on the importance of considering under its agenda item entitled "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes" the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, and of identifying effective tools that could potentially provide the Committee with new guidance, in a pragmatic manner and without prejudice to the mandate of other intergovernmental forums. In this context, the Committee observed that a focused consideration of issues pertaining to the application of norms of international law that are relevant for preserving outer space for peaceful purposes could be useful.

23. Fully in line with General Assembly resolution 68/50 on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, the Committee agreed that at its fifty-eighth session, in 2015, it would consider under its agenda item entitled "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes" the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of the Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space, with a view to identifying those recommendations that could, to the extent practicable, be adapted to and instrumental for ensuring the safety of space operations and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities in general.

24. The Committee requested the Secretariat to invite States members of the Committee to submit their views on the modalities of making practical use of the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts as they related and/or could prove instrumental to ensuring the safety of space operations, and in the context of the ongoing work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, and that replies of member States should be made available for the fifty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the fifty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee, in 2015.

25. The Committee agreed to continue its consideration of the item at its fifty-eighth session, in 2015, as a single issue/item for discussion.

J. Other matters

26. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled "Other matters", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/75.

27. The representatives of Canada, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

1. Proposed strategic framework for the programme on the peaceful uses of outer space for the period 2016-2017

28. The Committee had before it for its consideration the proposed strategic framework for the programme on the peaceful uses of outer space for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 5)). The Committee agreed on the proposed strategic framework.

2. Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2016-2017

29. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/75 and pursuant to the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies,[1] as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/56, the Committee considered the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2016-2017.

30. The Committee noted that the Western European and other States had endorsed the candidature of David Kendall (Canada) for the office of Chair of the Committee for the period 2016-2017 (A/AC.105/2014/CRP.17).

31. The Committee also noted that the Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed the candidature of Hellmut Lagos Koller (Chile) for the office of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2016-2017 (A/AC.105/2014/CRP.18).

32. The Committee noted that the Eastern European States, the African States and the Asian States would nominate their candidates for the offices of First Vice-Chair of the Committee, Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee and Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, respectively, for the period 2016-2017, before the next session of the Committee, to be held in 2015.

3. Membership of the Committee

33. The Committee welcomed the application of Luxembourg for membership in the Committee (see A/AC.105/2014/CRP.3).

34. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, in 2014, that Luxembourg should become a member of the Committee.

4. Observer status

35. The Committee took note of the application of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment for permanent observer status with the Committee. The application and the relevant correspondence were before the Committee in conference room paper A/AC.105/2014/CRP.4.

36. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, in 2014, grant to the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment the status of permanent observer with the Committee.

37. In accordance with the request of the Committee at its fifty-sixth session, in 2013, the Secretariat had compiled information on the consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee (A/AC.105/2014/CRP.8). The Committee urged non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with it that had not yet initiated the application process for consultative status with the Council to do so in the near future.

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), annex I; see also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/58/20), annex II, appendix III.

5. Organizational matters

38. The Committee noted that organizational matters and the method of work of the Committee and its Subcommittees had been addressed under other agenda items and would therefore be reflected in other parts of the present report.

39. The Committee stressed the continuous need for maximum flexibility in the scheduling of agenda items for the sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees in order to optimize the balance between the consideration of agenda items in plenary meetings and work conducted in working groups.

40. The Committee recalled that the trial period for the discontinuation of unedited transcripts would expire in 2015 and that the Committee at its fifty-eighth session and Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-fourth session would evaluate the use of digital recordings (see A/66/20, para. 297, and A/AC.105/C.2/L.282).

41. The Committee noted with satisfaction the work currently being undertaken by the Office for Outer Space Affairs to revitalize and improve the website of the Office.

6. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Committee

42. The Committee recommended that the following items be considered at its fifty-eighth session, in 2015:

1. General exchange of views.
2. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
3. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-second session.
4. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-fourth session.
5. Space and sustainable development.
6. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
7. Space and water.
8. Space and climate change.
9. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
10. Future role of the Committee.
11. Other matters.

43. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should schedule the work of the Committee at its next session, in 2015, in such a manner as to enable the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities to benefit from interpretation services.

44. The Committee noted with satisfaction that a special workshop on space weather was planned to be held on the margins of the fifty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2015.

45. The Committee agreed that a panel discussion addressing sustainable development within the context of the post-2015 development agenda should be

organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and be held in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly during the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, when it considers the item "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space", and that the specific topic of the panel discussion should be determined by the Office.

K. Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

46. The Committee agreed on the following tentative timetable for its session and those of its Subcommittees in 2015:

	Date	*Location*
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	2-13 February 2015	Vienna
Legal Subcommittee	13-24 April 2015	Vienna
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	10-19 June 2015	Vienna